

Hythe & Dibden Council Woodland Nest Recording & Bird Ringing Report 2017



Year 2

Hythe & Dibden Council Woodland, Nest Recording & Bird Ringing Report

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INTRODUCTION

For the second year of nest recording the Hythe & Dibden Woodland Committee built and installed a further ten bird boxes in Lower Butts Ash wood, giving a total of 20 bird boxes. With the mild spring weather both blue and great tits laid clutches two weeks earlier than in 2016. It was a very good breeding year for these small passerines with improved productivity from egg laying through to fledging.

Of the 14 boxes actually used for nesting a total of **87 chicks** (74 blue tits and 13 great tits) fledged, the analysis of each species is made on page 3. Of these 78 chicks were ringed. In addition to nest recording, mist nets were set outside the breeding season using the same sites as previous years and this report includes data gathered from bird ringing.



Tates Wood box 4 vandalised

Sadly, some of the bird boxes were vandalised this year. In Tates wood, box 4 was found badly damaged on the 19th May, this was around the time of chicks fledging. As the contents of the box were on the ground it was difficult to ascertain if the chicks left before the damage. It was with relief that on the 28th September during a bird ringing session, a great tit with ring NZ01509 was retrapped, this bird was ringed as a chick in box 4,

In October, the Council approved my bird ringing grant for £250. This allowed the purchase of 1000 bird rings which financially helps me with the continuation of this project in the parish of Hythe and Dibden. All data is collected on behalf of the British Trust for Ornithology (BTO). Nest recording and Bird Ringing generates information on the survival, productivity and movements of birds.

NEST RECORDING

- In Tates wood 7 boxes used and in Lower Butts Ash wood (LBA) 7 boxes used. A total of 14 boxes used for nesting from the 20 installed.
- The earliest hatching was great tit on 21.04.2017, two weeks earlier than 2016.
- The earliest blue tit hatching was on 27.04.2017, again two weeks earlier than in 2016
- The largest brood was 14 blue tit eggs, of these 12 hatched and fledged.
- In Tates wood one box was used by the same species in 2016 and 2017, box 9 blue tit
- In LBA all boxes used fledged blue tits only
- Great Tits nested in Tates wood boxes only, and in two consecutive years have hatched exactly a week before the Blue Tits.



Species summary with survival rates 2017

		nest count	total	total chicks	total fledge	Average Eggs	Average chicks	Average fledged	egg/chick survival	chick/fledge survival	egg/fledge survival
Blue Tit	2017	11	92	83	74	8.4	7.5	6.7	90.20%	89.20%	80.40%
Great Tit	2017	3	18	18	13	6	6	4.3	100.00%	72.20%	72.20%

Species summary with survival rates 2016

		nest count	total	total chicks	total fledge	Average Eggs	Average chicks	Average fledged	egg/chick survival	chick/fledge survival	egg/fledge survival
Blue Tit	2016	6	53	38	22	8.8	6.3	3.7	71.70%	57.90%	41.50%
Great Tit	2016	2	9	8	6	4.5	4	3	88.90%	75.00%	66.70%

- 2017 was a very productive year for our nest box blue tits, almost doubling their egg to fledging survival rates from 41.5% in 2016 to 80.40 % in 2017. Great Tits also fared better in 2017 although with a smaller increase for egg to fledging survival from 66.7% in 2016 to 72.20% in 2017.

Comparison year on year of species and numbers fledged from each box

TATES WOOD		1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	Fledged species break down	Fledged total
2017	great tit failed at chick stage	blue tit 8	unused	great tit 4	box used lid nailed shut so unable to record contents	blue tit predated	blue tit 4	unused	blue tit 12	great tit 9	13 great tits 24 blue tits	37	
2016	blue tit 3	great tit 3	unused	blue tit 8	blue tit 6	great tit 3	failed live young	unused	blue tit 5	failed eggs	6 great tits 22 blue tits	28	

LOWER BUTTS ASH WOOD		1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	Fledged species break down	Fledged total
2017	blue tit 5	blue tit 11	blue tit 5	blue tit 8	unused	blue tit 2	blue tit 7	unused	blue tit 9	unused	47 blue tits	47	

BIRD RINGING TOTALS

	<i>Full grown</i>	<i>Pulli</i>	<i>Retraps</i>	<i>Total</i>
Sparrowhawk	1	0	0	1
Wren	7	0	0	7
Dunnock	3	0	0	3
Robin	13	0	0	13
Blackbird	3	0	0	3
Blackcap	6	0	0	6
Chiffchaff	13	0	0	13
Goldcrest	42	0	3	45
Firecrest	12	0	3	15
Long-tailed Tit	10	0	1	11
Coal Tit	6	0	0	6
Blue Tit	50	66	1	117
Great Tit	27	12	8	47
Nuthatch	4	0	0	4
Treecreeper	3	0	0	3
Starling	1	0	0	1
TOTAL	201	78	17	296



SITE SUMMARY

- A total of 201 new birds ringed of 16 species plus 17 retraps from 9 mistnet sessions. These visits were undertaken outside the breeding period between September and November with one session in February.
- One of the ringed nest box chicks was recaptured in its natal area, however as noted on page one it was an important retrap as the nestbox it fledged from was vandalised during May and at the time we were unable to confirm if the birds successfully fledged. This great tit was ringed on 30.04.2017 from box 4 in Tates wood and retrapped on 28.09.2017, 151 days later.
- This year 12 firecrests have been ringed. One individual ringed on 20.10.2016 as a first-year female was retrapped on 03.10.2017 almost a year later at the same site. An excellent site record indicating she stayed for the breeding season.
- Once again good numbers of goldcrest ringed, with a total of 42 new birds and 3 retraps. An adult female ringed on 24.02.2017 and recaptured on 20.09.2017 some 208 days later, indicating this bird stayed for breeding.
- A male sparrowhawk was ringed on 24.02.2017, a pair breed locally and this bird could well be the resident male.

SITE SUMMARY CONTINUED

- During the Autumn 6 blackcaps were ringed, one male was heard singing in Tates woods throughout the summer holding territory and a report of a nesting pair at Lower Butts Ash wood
- In May, Linda Charles, (whose property borders Tates wood), advised me of a blackbird with twine wrapped around a foot, using only one leg and looking distressed. I caught the blackbird and cut the tightly wrapped twine away the leg. The blackbird had a well-defined brood patch so would have been sitting on eggs. As the foot and leg were uninjured and the bird otherwise healthy, I ringed the bird on the left leg. Since then, Linda has often seen this blackbird identified by the metal ring and reports back the blackbird is still visiting her garden some eight months later.



- Despite repositioning the Tawny Owl box in 2016, no breeding took place this year following a check by Graham Giddens on the 28.04.2017.
- Despite catching 118 blue tits this year unusually only one was a retrap, a first year bird ringed on 23.11.2016 and retrapped 08.02.2017 some 77 days later. In comparison to the great tits of which 47 were mistnetted and of these 7 were retraps.
- Other long retraps include a great tit ringed on 20.10.2016 and retrapped a year later on 03.10.2017 and a long tailed tit ringed in autumn 2016 and recaptured in February 2017, a total of 159 days.



Ringed goldcrest, tates wood, 2.03.2017

RETRAPS AND RECOVERIES (N= New ring fitted, R=re-trapped)

Goldcrest

JHT976	N	3F		02/09/16	SOR	Langdown, nr Hythe, Hampshire
	R	5F	Recaptured	24/02/17	SOR	Langdown, nr Hythe, Hampshire (175 days)
JTK787	N	3M		20/10/16	SOR	Langdown, nr Hythe, Hampshire
	R	3M	Recaptured	23/11/16	SOR	Langdown, nr Hythe, Hampshire (34 days)
	R	4	Recaptured	08/02/17	SOR	Langdown, nr Hythe, Hampshire (111 days)
JTL471	N	4F		24/02/17	SOR	Langdown, nr Hythe, Hampshire
	R	4F	Recaptured	20/09/17	SOR	Langdown, nr Hythe, Hampshire (208 days)

Firecrest

JTK775	N	3F		20/10/16	SOR	Langdown, nr Hythe, Hampshire
	R	4F	Recaptured	03/10/17	SOR	Langdown, nr Hythe, Hampshire (348 days)
JTL441	N	3M		23/11/16	SOR	Langdown, nr Hythe, Hampshire
	R	5M	Recaptured	08/02/17	SOR	Langdown, nr Hythe, Hampshire (77 days)
KCV185	N	3M		03/10/17	SOR	Langdown, nr Hythe, Hampshire
	R	3M	Recaptured	31/10/17	SOR	Langdown, nr Hythe, Hampshire (28 days)

Long-tailed Tit

JHT985	N	2		02/09/16	SOR	Langdown, nr Hythe, Hampshire
	R	4	Recaptured	08/02/17	SOR	Langdown, nr Hythe, Hampshire (159 days)

Blue Tit

S589491	N	3		23/11/16	SOR	Langdown, nr Hythe, Hampshire
	R	5	Recaptured	08/02/17	SOR	Langdown, nr Hythe, Hampshire (77 days)

Great Tit

NZ01509	N	1		30/04/17	SOR	Langdown, nr Hythe, Hampshire
	R	3M	Recaptured	28/09/17	SOR	Langdown, nr Hythe, Hampshire (151 days)
S589425	N	3F		20/10/16	SOR	Langdown, nr Hythe, Hampshire
	R	4F	Recaptured	03/10/17	SOR	Langdown, nr Hythe, Hampshire (348 days)
S589454	N	3F		31/10/16	SOR	Langdown, nr Hythe, Hampshire
	R	4F	Recaptured	20/09/17	SOR	Langdown, nr Hythe, Hampshire (324 days)
S589456	N	4F		31/10/16	SOR	Langdown, nr Hythe, Hampshire
	R	6F	Recaptured	04/05/17	SOR	Langdown, nr Hythe, Hampshire (185 days)
S831735	N	3F		01/09/17	SOR	Langdown, nr Hythe, Hampshire
	R	3F	Recaptured	03/10/17	SOR	Langdown, nr Hythe, Hampshire (32 days)
	R	3F	Recaptured	31/10/17	SOR	Langdown, nr Hythe, Hampshire (60 days)
S831749	N	3F		01/09/17	SOR	Langdown, nr Hythe, Hampshire
	R	3	Recaptured	03/10/17	SOR	Langdown, nr Hythe, Hampshire (32 days)
S831755	N	4F		01/09/17	SOR	Langdown, nr Hythe, Hampshire
	R	4F	Recaptured	03/10/17	SOR	Langdown, nr Hythe, Hampshire (32 days)

Some general observations



Hornets were seen in higher numbers than in previous years, this one caught in my mist net was released unharmed on 28.09.2017



A long tailed tit nest was found in Tates wood, on 31.03.2017 unfortunately this nest was later predated.



A common rustic moth was roosting in an empty nest box, found when cleaning out 3.07.2017

Birds showing signs of disease and ill-health

The general health of all birds ringed again this year was good. One robin had a fungal foot infection (left unringed).

Weather during the study period

Following a generally dry and mild winter the second half of February turned stormy. March and April were warmer than average although we received some late frosts in the second half of April. May was warm and wetter than average for the South. During the summer months, June to August, rainfall totals and temperatures were above average, although June did have the hottest day of the year since records began.

Acknowledgements

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